Informal briefing by the ECOSOC Vice-President

“Preparations for the 2022 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment and the Meeting on Transition from Relief to Development”

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Thursday, 12 May 2022, 11:30-13:00 (In-person)

New York
Informal briefing
Preparations for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2022 and the
ECOSOC Meeting on Transition from Relief to Development

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11:30 a.m. (Trusteeship Council)

Today's briefing is intended to provide information on the preparations for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment and the Meeting on Transition from Relief to Development. Following this briefing, the Director of the Resource Mobilization and Humanitarian Financing Division of the Office of Humanitarian Affairs Coordination, Ms. Heli Uusikyla, will present a summary of the Report of the Secretary-General on the "Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations". The report is contained in document A/77/72 and available on the ECOSOC HAS 2022 website.

I. UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT (HAS) 2022

The annual ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment is an important forum for Member States and Humanitarian Organizations to support humanitarian action for people affected by a humanitarian crisis. It is our opportunity to discuss current challenges and concerns of the system and advance practical solutions.

This year's HAS comes at a complex time, where humanitarian needs have increased, with effects combined with the climate crisis and the recovery from the COVID-19
pandemic that deepened existing inequalities, increasing conflicts, food insecurity and the risk of famine are increasing, there are also record levels of displacement, interruptions in education, the disproportionate impact of humanitarian crises on women and children, including the increase in violence against these population groups.

In this challenging global landscape, this year's HAS will focus on cross-cutting and systemic humanitarian challenges, as well as highlight good practices that make a difference in people's lives. It is essential to implement more sustainable solutions, and affected people and countries are counting on this collective effort to strengthen humanitarian assistance and take concrete action.

**Annual Theme**

The theme of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment 2022 will be "Strengthening humanitarian assistance: good practices and mobilizing action in the implementation of international humanitarian law, the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) Pandemic and in response to the climate Crisis", to be held from 21 to 23 June in New York.

This Segment will be composed of an opening session, three high-level panels and a closing session.

**High-level panels**

Within the framework of this Segment, three panels will be developed.

- **The High-Level Panel 1**, entitled "Humanitarian assistance and lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic: working together to ensure that children and women are not left behind".
This Panel will focus on mobilizing the necessary actions in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, given its profound socio-economic, health and humanitarian impacts, taking into account that children's education has been interrupted and many have not yet returned to school or struggle to integrate back into school and considering that women have been at the forefront of the humanitarian response, but often lose livelihoods and suffer gender-based violence, the panel will focus on children and women, considering education in emergencies, child protection, health and well-being, including mental health and psychosocial support, social reintegration and return to school, as well as the shadow of the gender-based violence pandemic in order to draw lessons and good practices, such as analyzing the solutions required to generate systemic impacts for the future.

- **The Second Panel entitled "Reaching people in need, supporting humanitarian assistance for all in times of conflict and promoting good practices in the application of international humanitarian law"

It will discuss trends, challenges and good practices related to the provision of humanitarian assistance in past and present armed conflicts and consider practical ways to strengthen the application of international humanitarian law, facilitate access to people in need and implement fundamental protections that save lives and reduce humanitarian suffering.

The discussion considers good practices on how humanitarian workers can deliver better results for humanitarian action and ensure that humanitarian assistance and protection is provided to all affected people without discrimination and regardless of nationality, race, gender, religious beliefs or political convictions.
• **The High-level Panel 3 will focus on the "Humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis: increased risks, challenges and actions".**

Taking into account that climate change is already having profound impacts in all regions, the panel will discuss the humanitarian impacts of climate-related disasters and their consequences, including devastating droughts, displacement, migration, increased food insecurity and loss of agriculture, livelihoods and land, the spread of disease, and will also reflect the humanitarian implications of gradual climate-induced impacts, such as rising sea levels and melting glaciers and the resulting impacts (e.g. flooding in some regions and water scarcity in others) in various regions of the world.

The discussion will include consideration of the latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and what it means for the humanitarian system as it warns of the limits of adaptation and how the pace and scale of change are outpacing the capacity of those in vulnerable situations to reduce risks and adapt.

In this regard, the panel will emphasize humanitarian perspectives on loss and damage associated with the present and future impacts of climate change on the most vulnerable and the growing need for support for them.

From this point of view, it is important that from a humanitarian assistance perspective, risk analysis, preparedness, early warning, early action and response to the climate crisis can be expanded, taking into account the lessons learned and good practices collected so far.

My country has long promoted harmony between humans and the rest nature: it is more important than ever that we change practices and mindsets, based on good practices, and
mobilizing strong climate action, including in the humanitarian sector.

**Format and Modalities:**

The Humanitarian Affairs Segment and the Transition Meeting will be developed as in-person events to allow for the greatest interaction and exchange between delegations, experts and international organizations after more than two years of virtuality. It is important to take this opportunity to identify common themes and strengthen collaboration with other actors in support of humanitarian concerns and solutions to the challenges we face.

**Side events:**

Likewise, within the framework of the HAS, the parallel side-events will be held. In this regard, a call for proposals was sent last Friday to Member States and NGO partners. This is a feature of the HAS that everyone values, so every effort will be made to organize as many side events as possible during the week of June 20-24.

Side events will be mostly held virtually, and in-person or hybrid meetings are also being explored depending on the availability of rooms with the necessary technology. OCHA has been coordinating the side events and the application process.

Information on side events, including the form to express interest in hosting a side event, can be found on the HAS 2022 website (https://www.unocha.org/ecosoc-2022). **The deadline for submission of proposals is May 16.**

Given the limited number of spaces for side events, and in order to maximize participation, we will avoid overlapping side
events and meetings and encourage organizers to partner on similar proposals.

**HAS Resolution:**

Considering that we still have a prudent time, this is an issue that has still been worked on by the Vice Presidency, it is important for us to continue with the tradition of having a Resolution as a product of the work to be carried out in the present administration.

Also, we have already had the opportunity to listen to the voices of some countries and regions on the issue, we believe that, at a time of great challenges for the humanitarian issue, it is essential to maintain consensus.

In that sense, a technical update and some very specific additions in reference to the theme of HAS 2022 will be presented to you. For this, we will also work with two brother Countries that already have enough experience in the co-facilitation of these processes, which will be communicated in the coming days.

Likewise, at the conclusion of the process, the Vice Presidency will make a statement, highlighting the most important issues of our dialogues.

**II. UPDATE ON THE MEETING ON THE TRANSITION FROM RELIEF TO DEVELOPMENT**

On 20 June, the ECOSOC Meeting on the Transition from Relief to Development will be held. This session will be co-chaired with Her Excellency Ms. Mia Rainne, Vice-President of ECOSOC in charge of the Operational Activities for Development Segment.
The meeting will have a revitalized format and approach, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution 75/290 A. This year's meeting will focus on the theme "Recurrent crises and sustainable solutions: building resilience and addressing rising food insecurity and displacement".

Food insecurity has reached a record high in 2021, with the recent Global Food Crisis Report stating that nearly 40 million people were acutely food insecure by the end of 2021 and the risk of famine lurks in some regions of the world. The links to displacement are also evident: of the 51 million internally displaced persons worldwide, almost 45 million were in 24 countries/territories with food crises.

Displacement has increased considerably over the past decade: the number of forcibly displaced people reached more than 84 million by mid-2021 and has increased further in 2022.

In that regard, the Transitional Meeting will address challenges, best practices and factors that facilitate success at the national and regional levels, for future improvements, in particular on strengthening food security and durable solutions.

It will include consideration of the impacts and role of women who provide such important support to their communities and are often frontline first responders. It will also discuss the mobilization of actions, financing and investments, and the strengthening of collaboration and complementarity among humanitarian, development and peacebuilding actors.

As mandated by General Assembly Resolution 75/290 A, the meeting should also include consideration of issues related to Haiti, South Sudan and the Sahel region.
**Meeting format**

The meeting format will be in-person. This one-day meeting will include two roundtables.

The morning session will focus on assessing the scale and impact of food insecurity and mobilizing collective action to address food insecurity to prevent famine in the most affected countries and regions. And the afternoon session will focus on displacement, to deepen understanding of current and future challenges and impacts, to discuss how to mobilize action and support with durable solutions.

Within this framework, the discussions will focus on the problems currently facing the most affected countries and regions that are expected to be most affected, including the situation in Haiti, South Sudan and the Sahel. While Haiti, South Sudan and the Sahel will feature prominently in the discussion, the sessions will also address other emergency contexts to share good practices and lessons learned.

**Outcome of the meeting**

The outcome of the Transition Meeting will be a summary prepared by the EcoSOC Vice-Presidents in charge of the Humanitarian Affairs Segment and the Operational Activities for Development Segment.

It should be noted that while substantive discussions on issues related to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, South Sudan and the Sahel region will take place during the Transition Meeting, consideration of reporting procedures, resolutions and decisions will take place during the ECOSOC Management Segment on 21 and 22 July 2022.